

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 229058
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-15 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 /062 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P:BARUSSELL:ADR

APPROVED BY AF/P:FDHOOK

-----067874 100348Z /13

R 090137Z SEP 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASUI

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USICA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 229058

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY PRAIA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS STATE 229058

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, SEPT. 8, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL
VERSION WILL FOLLOW:

Q. WITH REGARD TO RHODESIA, AMBASSADOR LOW AND MR. GRAHAM
WERE REPORTED IN SALISBURY EARLIER IN THE WEEK. HAS
AMBASSADOR LOW REPORTED BACK YET TO THIS DEPARTMENT? AND
IS HE DUE BACK IN THE UNITED STATES IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

A. TWO THINGS: THE AMBASSADOR DOES REPORT BACK REGULARLY
ON THE STATUS OF HIS MISSION IN CONNECTION WITH THE RHO-
DESIAN SITUATION. SECOND, THE AMBASSADOR, I BELIEVE, IS
MEETING IN LONDON WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARD MOOSE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 229058

AND TONY LAKE, WHO WENT OVER THERE LAST NIGHT. THEY WILL
BE DISCUSSING WHAT HE HAS FOUND AND WHAT PROJECTIONS HE
MAY MAKE. I REPEAT WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY: MOOSE AND
LAKE INTEND TO HAVE A NUMBER OF CONSULTATIONS WITH BRITISH
OFFICIALS ON THE RHODESIA SITUATION WHILE THEY ARE THERE.

Q. HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT OR THE ADMINISTRATION MADE
ANY KIND OF AN APPEAL TO PRIME MINISTER SMITH NOT TO TAKE

DRASTIC ACTION IN THE WAKE OF THE SLAUGHTER OF THE VICTIMS
IN THE PLANE CRASH?

A. WITHOUT GOING INTO SPECIFICS OF ANY KIND OF COMMUNI-
CATIONS, DIRECT OR INDIRECT, THE VIEWS THAT I HAVE
EXPRESSED FROM THIS PODIUM ON THE QUESTION OF ACCEL-
ERATING VIOLENCE HAVE BEEN MADE CLEAR TO THE PARTIES
AS WELL AS TO A NUMBER OF INTERESTED PARTIES IN THE AREA.

Q. IS THERE CONFIRMATION, HODDING, THAT YOU HAVE ABOUT
THE MEANS BY WHICH THAT PLANE WAS BROUGHT DOWN?

A. I DO NOT. WE CAN'T GO BEYOND THE FINDING OF THE

RHODESIAN OFFICIALS WHO HAVE REPORTED THAT THEY BELIEVE THAT A HEAT-SEEKING MISSILE DID STRIKE IT AND THE ALLEGATION BY MR. NKOMO THAT HIS PEOPLE WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR IT. WE DO NOT HAVE INDEPENDENT EVIDENCE.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THESE MISSILES ARE IN THE POSSESSION OF MR. NKOMO'S TROOPS?

A. I DON'T KNOW. AGAIN, I CAN ONLY PUT THE TWO THINGS THE WAY YOU WOULD PUT THEM TOGETHER, BUT I HAVE NO VERIFICATION.

Q. WOULD YOU REGARD THE SUPPLY OF SUCH WEAPONS BY POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS AS IRRESPONSIBLE?
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 229058

A. I THINK THAT MY POSITION THAT I'VE OFFERED ON WHAT HAPPENED THERE SPEAKS TO THE QUESTION OF IRRESPONSIBILITY. INDEED, OBVIOUSLY WHAT WE ARE INTERESTED IN IS NOT MERELY THAT NO HEAT-SEEKING MISSILES BE BROUGHT IN IF THEY ARE THERE BUT ALL LEVELS OF WEAPONRY AND THEIR USE.

Q. HAVE YOU MADE THAT POINT TO THE OBVIOUS SUPPLIERS?

A. I AM CONFIDENT WE HAVE MADE THE POINT ON THE REGIONAL SUPPLY OF SUCH WEAPONRY TO A NUMBER OF SUPPLIERS IN DISCUSSIONS WE'VE HAD AT VARIOUS TIMES.

Q. FOLLOWING UP ON CUBA, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME REPORTS OF SLIGHT REDUCTIONS OF CUBAN MILITARY FORCES IN AFRICA. HAVE YOU ANY INDICATION THAT THAT IS THE CASE?

A. I AM NOT AWARE OF A MEANINGFUL CHANGE IN THE TROOP FIGURE IN AFRICA. AND I'M NOT BEING CUTE HERE. I DON'T BELIEVE THERE HAS BEEN ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE

TROOP FIGURE.

Q. WHAT EXACTLY WAS THE OBJECTIVE OF AMBASSADOR LOW AND MR. GRAHAM IN SALISBURY? AND WHAT, IF ANYTHING, CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT ANY PROGRESS THEY MAY HAVE MADE OR THE LACK OF IT?

A. I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO COMMENT ON THE PROGRESS OF MR. GRAHAM AND MR. LOW. THE MISSION THAT THEY HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKING FOR MONTHS NOW IS TO ATTEMPT TO BRING THE PARTIES TOGETHER IN AN ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE TO
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 229058

DISCUSS THE TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE AND INDEPENDENCE
FOR RHODESIA. THAT REMAINS THEIR OBJECTIVE. THAT
HAS NOT CHANGED -- ALL PARTIES, AT AN ALL-PARTIES MEETING.

Q. I'M SORRY I MISSED YOUR BRIEFING YESTERDAY. BUT
WHAT ABOUT SECRETARY MOOSE AND MR. LAKE? WHAT ARE THEY
DOING IN LONDON?

A. THEY ARE, IN FACT, DISCUSSING WITH BRITISH OFFICIALS
PRECISELY WHERE WE THINK WE CAN GO, WHAT WE THINK OUR
JOINT ASSESSMENT IS OF THE SITUATION IN RHODESIA.
BEYOND THAT, I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY REPORT TO OFFER YOU.

CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, MASSACRES, REPRISALS, DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE229058
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BARUSSELL:ADR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780368-0930
Format: TEL
From: STATE JOINT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780984/aaaacrfg.tel
Line Count: 189
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c8737053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1491811
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, SEPT. 8, 1978 FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY
TAGS: SOPN, RH
To: KINSHASA LUBUMBASHI MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c8737053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014